

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01598 171233Z

45-41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 SSO-00

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P 171145Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2737

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, AG

SUBJ: EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE: BOUTEFLIKA DESIRE TO BE INVITED

1. WAS SUMMONED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO MEET COUNSELOR IN BOUTEFLIKA'S OFFICE NAMED HUSSEIN JUDY WHO MADE PRESENTATION AMOUNTING TO REQUEST THAT WE SUPPORT INVITATION TO BOUTEFLIKA TO ATTEND HELSINKI CONFERENCE AS INVITEE (RATHER THAN AS PARTICIPANT OR CONTRIBUTOR).

2. JUDY GAVE HISTORICAL RUNDOWN OF ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION AS CONTRIBUTOR TO SECOND PHASE AND SAID THAT BECAUSE OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT IT NOT POSSIBLE INVITE ALL MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. SAID "IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED" THAT ONE WAY OF DEALING WITH THIS THORNY ISSUE WOULD BE TO INVITE BOUTEFLIKA TO ATTEND CONFERENCE IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JUST AS SECRETARY GENERAL WAS BEING INVITED. HE WOULD OF COURSE GIVE SPEECH BUT WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPANT. THIS WOULD PERMIT A MEASURE OF NON-ALIGNED, NORTH AFRICAN, SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN AND ARAB REPRESENTATION. GOA WAS APPROACHING UNSPECIFIED OTHER MISSIONS IN ALGIERS ON SUBJECT. TIME WAS OF ESSENCE AND THEY HOPED WE WOULD TAKE QUICK ACTION TO SUPPORT THIS IDEA.

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3. QUICK CHECK REVEALS THAT SO FAR SOVIET IS ONLY OTHER AMBASSADOR APPROACHED. HE SAW

JUDY IMMEDIATELY AFTER I DID. BOTH SOVIET AND I PROMISED TO INFORM OUR GOVERNMENTS OF REQUEST BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

4. COMMENT: THIS OBVIOUSLY MATTER OF PRESTIGE FOR BOUTEFLIKA. IN TERMS FLATTERING HIS EGO WOULD BE USEFUL GESTURE TO SUPPORT INVITATION. I ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE HAS SET OF GROUND RULES WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE HIM. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN FACT DEMARCHE MADE BY MIDDLE-RANKING OFFICIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY AND NOT BOUTEFLIKA OR SENIOR OFFICIAL, GIVEN BOUTEFLIKA'S RECORD AT UNGA, GIVEN RECENT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS VOTE AT JIDDA AND GIVEN LIKELIHOOD HE WOULD MAKE SPEECH UNFAVORABLE TO US, I CANNOT FIND IT IN ME TO RECOMMEND THAT WE SUPPORT SUCH AN INVITATION. SUGGEST WE THROW THE BALL IN SOMEONE ELSE'S LAP.

5. ADVISE.
PARKER

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